

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-16 and 19-23 have been rejected. Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 23 have now been amended. Claims 19, 20 and 22 have now been cancelled.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103 – Kikinis in view of Microsoft Corp. and Kadyk et al.

Claims 1-16 and 19-23 are rejected by the Examiner as being unpatentable over over Kikinis US 6,243,569 (hereinafter Kikinis) in view of Microsoft Corporation 1998 and Kadyk et al. US 6,674,767 (hereinafter Kadyk).

Independent claim 1 is hereby amended to describe the processing by the communication network (i.e. the access network) of a request to access a resource. Claim 1 now reads:

1. A method for providing access to a resource at an access device through an access network, said resource being identifiable by an object identifier, said method comprising:
 - accepting a connection to said access device over a telephone voice channel, said connection involving an object identifier; and said object identifier comprising a telephone number;
 - identifying said connection as a request to access said resource;
 - routing said request to a resolution server;
 - resolving said request to identify said resource according to said object identifier; and
 - providing access to said resource by said access device if said request is resolved.

The present invention, as currently claimed, is for the process performed at the access network after a connection to the access device is established. At the communication network a connection is requested to the telephone number that was dialed by the user. The dialed number includes an object identifier which can be used to identify the requested resource. The dialed number also includes an indication that

the connection is for the purpose of resource access, not a voice call. When an incoming call is identified as a resource access request, the request is routed to the resolution server. If the object identifier is resolved, the resource is made accessible to the caller, for example by sending an SMS to the number which originated the access request.

Support for the amendments made to claim 1 is found in Fig. 5A and the accompanying description. Fig. 5A illustrates the process occurring in the communication network after the connection is made, and provide support for the current claim. In the example of Fig. 5A, the phone number dialed by the user contains a prefix, ** that indicates that the incoming call is an access request. The prefix is then followed by the object identifier. Thus, when the call is accepted by the switch, the network is able to determine from the dialed number both that the incoming call is a resource access request and the object identifier of the requested resource. The call is then routed to the resolution server (arrow 4), which parses the request to extract the object identifier and then forwards the object identifier to the core (arrow 5). (In the present example, both the object identifier and the telephone number from which request was placed are provided to the server, however this is not obligatory. Only the object identifier is required for resolution.) The core determines the URL and returns the URL to the resolution server (arrow 6). The URL is forwarded to the user (arrows 7 and 8), who is now able to access the resource with an Internet-enabled telephone, at the provided URL.

Claim 1 now no longer requires that transmitting a request to access a resource and actually accessing the resource are performed over separate modes. Instead, the present invention is distinguished by the manner in which the resource access request is handled in the communication system. The user dials a telephone number, as if dialing a voice call. The object identifier is extractable from the dialed number, so that no further information must be provided to the system after the connection is made.

In Kikinis the request to access the resource is made from a cell phone using voice protocols. However the telephone number dialed from the cell phone serves only to connect the cell phone to the proxy server that provides access to the Internet. However this phone number does not contain an object identifier, as in the present invention. After the connection is made to the proxy server further information must be supplied to identify the resource being accessed.

The Examiner states that the object identifier may be provided in a manner similar to the ICON-based routing taught by Microsoft Internet Explorer, where the ICON-based routing is modified to associate object identifiers with generic digital resources not just web pages. However, the ICON (i.e. the object identifier) is not part of the telephone number that is dialed from the cell phone. Unlike the present invention in which the object identifier is incorporated into the dialed number, in ICON-based routing the address of the target page is transferred as a separate entity after a connection is made to the digital network. Thus the use of ICON-type resource access with Kikinis does not result in the method of resource access presented in the instant specification, that is of requesting a resource simply by dialing a specified telephone number.

Finally, the Examiner states that Kadyk teaches a flexible system for data transfer from an origination device to a wide number of destinations, having different protocols. In Kadyk flexible data transfer is performed by incorporating drivers into the gateway which are capable of translating data from an original format into the format required by the destination device. As stated in the abstract:

"After the gateway receives information from a data source, the gateway identifies the specific device type and the specific network type to which the information is to be routed. The gateway then calls device and network drivers associated with the specific device and network identified with the destination device. These drivers then manipulate the data using the device driver into the format recognized by the destination device..."

The teachings in Kadyk are thus seen to relate to the step of providing access to resources, not to the earlier steps of identifying and routing a resource request and of resolving the object identifier.

The prior art cited by the Examiner does not teach accessing resources by dialing a telephone number which incorporates an object identifier. Even a connection is made over a voice channel, as in Kikinis, an ICON-like resource identifier must later be provided. The manner in which the resource is made accessible to the user is limited to any specific mechanism in claim 1, and is in general unrelated to the teachings of Kadyk.

It is therefore submitted that claim 1 is both novel and inventive over the cited prior art. It is believed that the dependent claims are allowable as being dependent on

an allowable main claim. The specific objections against the dependent claims are therefore not responded to individually.

No new matter has been added in the course of making the present amendments.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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